

Future Steps

The money has been divided up, the compost has been applied and we’ve spent the last two months contacting people about the results. We’ve collected a series of quality before and after color photos and we are now in the process of getting one page project profiles, “Compost Works”, onto the DNR website www.iowadnr.com/wmad/recycling/organics/organics.html for public viewing. We plan to give the facility contacts copies of these featured projects to help spread the word about how, when and where compost is working and who to contact with individual project questions.

Compost Producers With Compost for Sale

Producer	Phone
Bluestem Solid Waste Agency, Cedar Rapids	319-398-1278
Chamness Technology, Eddyville	641-969-5702
Davenport Compost Facility	563-888-2100
DeWitt, City of	563-659-5324
EnviroOne, Dubuque	563-599-3761
Great River Regional Waste Authority, Ft. Madison	319-372-6140
Iowa City Landfill	319-356-5170
Marshalltown, City of	641-754-5709
Metro Waste Authority, Des Moines	515-323-6525
Van Buskirk Construction, Sioux City	712-255-8345

Compost Applicators Serving Iowa

Service Provider	Phone
Soil Tek, Des Moines	515-244-7474
Iowa Mulch, Marion	866-447-1613
River Valley Nursery , Dubuque	563-582-1296
Landscape Butler, Omaha	402-330-2100

Compost Users

The Department of Natural Resources thanks these organizations for participating and using compost.

Business/Organization

A+ Lawn & Landscape 1
Advanced Irrigation 4
Advanced Irrigation 4
Aero Hawk Flying Field 3 4
Ankeny, City of 3
Apex Environmental 1
B & H Realty 1
CAC Products 1
Capital Lawn Care 1
Carpenter Erosion 1 3
Central College 1 3
Central Communications 1
Central Iowa Lawn & Home Care 1
Chad Meyers Tree Farm 4
City of Ames Public Works Department 1
Clear Creek Amana School District 1 2 3
Coldwater Golf Links 1
Companies of Clarke 1
Dallas Co. Secondary Roads Dept 1
Davenport School Systems3 4
Davenport West High School 3
Des Moines Asphalt & Paving Company 1
Des Moines Golf and Country Club 3
Des Moines Public Schools 1
Dutch Meadows Landscaping 1 2 3
Eco-Tech Construction 1
Gee Grading 1
Gehl Lawn Specialist 4
Greenspace Associates 3
Ground Zero Landscape 1
Grounds Keeper 1
Harvester Golf Club - 4
Horizon Elementary 1
Hunziker & Associates 1 3
Hurst & Sons 1
I-235 DOT Project 1 3
Iowa City, City of 3
Iowa State University 1 3
JJM Builders 1
Johnston Schools 1 3
Kathy Spear Landscape and Nursery 3
Kinter Construction 1
Koester Construction 1

Langenberg Services 1
Lessard Contracting 3
Locust St., IDOT widening project 1 2 3
Mark III Homes 1
Martin Homes, L.L.C. 1 3
McCubbin Construction Corp 3
Morgan Oaks and Commercial Customers 1 3 4
Morgan Oaks Tree Farm 3
Nelson Construction 1
Nevada, City of 1
On With Life 1
Pike Mechanical 1
R & R Management, Aurora Business Park 1 3
Regency Commercial Services 1
Reilly Construction 1 2
Rottlund Homes 1
Roy Sandstrom 4
Savannah Homes 1 3
Smith Seeding 1 3 5
Soil Tek 1 3
St. Mary of Nazareth 1
Stanbrough Development 1 2 3
Stanbrough Homebuilders 1
State of Iowa, Hoover Building 1
Stevenson Custom Homes 1
The Berry Patch Farm 1 3
TPC at John Deere Run 3 4
Tschiggfrie Excavating 2 3
Twin Eagles 1
United Contractors, Inc. 1
Van Hauen & Associates 1
Wakonda Village Apartments 1
Walters Homes, Ltd. 1
Waukee, City of 1 3
Willowglen Nursery3
Windscares 1
Woodruff Construction 1

Erosion control =1, Storm water management =2, Vegetation Establishment=3, Turf Maintenance=4, Nursery Stock =5



IOWA COMPOST REBATE PROGRAM--FINAL REPORT

Tom Leabhart from the Davenport Public Works Dept mentioned that he was likely to use compost on future projects: **“We have the city facility always looking to use compost and we’ve seen good results.”**

Pete Kingsley, Maintenance Supervisor at St Mary’s of Nazareth Catholic Church, was very impressed with the compost used on the church’s shaded front turf area; **“It’s working great. It’s really done a wonder for the area.”**

Brad Freeman of the Waukee Public Works Dept stated. **“If the conditions are right, this is the perfect stuff. We got a full stand in two weeks. The stuff is amazing”**

For more information, check out our website at <http://www.iowadnr.com/waste/index.html> or contact Jodi Jeanes at 563-927-2460 or Jeff Geerts at 515-281-8176.



Compost Rebate Program Summary 2004

Background

The use of compost is beneficial to many potential markets because it can help to reduce runoff, erosion and sediment loss on construction sites, establish vegetation and suppress weeds, reduce the quantity of fertilizer and herbicide used for management activities, and provide support for local solid waste facilities. Composting is an important component of Iowa’s integrated waste management system for organic residuals, however, until more markets are developed for finished compost the capacity to compost in Iowa will remain stagnant.

Rebate Program

To stimulate market demand for compost, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) initiated a Compost Rebate Program from July 2003 to May 2004. The department’s Solid Waste Alternative Program (SWAP) provided \$50,000 for the rebate program. This program was an excellent companion piece to other compost marketing and education projects funded by SWAP in recent years. The rebate program goals were as follows:

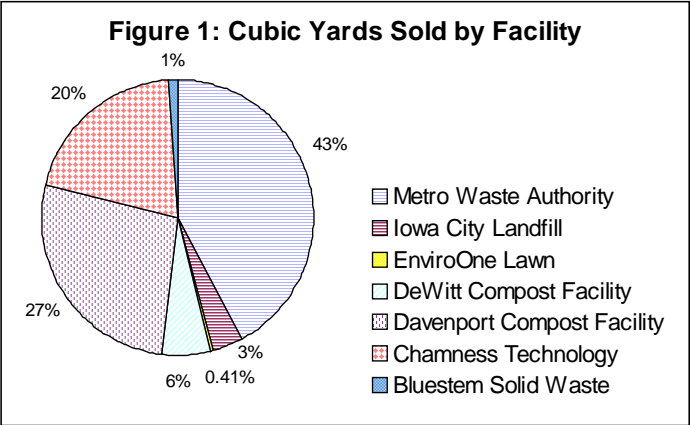
- Improve Iowa’s water quality
- Increase ongoing use of compost by construction and landscape contractors
- Develop additional value-added markets for compost
- Assist contractors in meeting National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II requirements

The rebate was created to induce the use of compost among first time buyers and to help disseminate information about the benefits of compost use. The targeted audiences included any public or private, non-residential purchaser buying compost for the first time for erosion control, storm water management, vegetation establishment, turf maintenance or establishing or maintaining nursery stock. Any Iowa Department of Transportation contractor using compost on an Iowa Department of Transportation project was eligible for the rebate as well even though the Iowa Department of Transportation has used compost for these applications before. Purchasers of the rebate compost received up to \$5 or 50% off per cubic yard whichever was less.

Participating composting facilities included:

- ♦ Bluestem Solid Waste Agency in Cedar Rapids
- ♦ Chamness Technology in Eddyville
- ♦ Davenport Compost Facility
- ♦ De Witt Compost Facility
- ♦ EnviroOne Lawn, LLC in Dubuque
- ♦ Iowa City Landfill
- ♦ Metro Waste Authority in Des Moines

These participants sold compost and reported the purchaser and use information either via a coupon form or a web site. Purchasers in the program included greenhouses, road departments, landscaping firms, golf courses, schools, farms, arboretums, universities, developers, construction firms, churches, hospitals, nurseries and landfills.



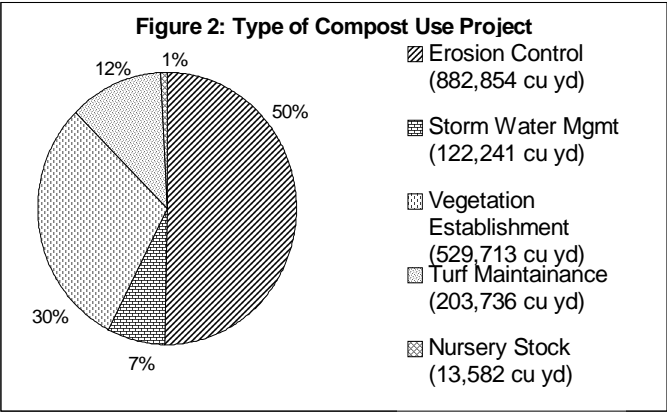
Compost mulching berry plants
Berry Patch, Nevada, IA

Facts and Figures

Total Cubic Yards Sold	17,521.26
Total Amount Refunded	\$49,227.76
Total Number of Rebates Funded	92
Average Discount per Cubic Yard	\$2.81

As indicated in Figure 1, the cubic yards sold by each facility varies greatly. Metro Waste Authority topped the rebate sales figures (43 percent) followed by the Davenport Compost Facility (27 percent) and Chamness Technology of Eddyville (20 percent).

Of the many uses for compost, erosion control (50 percent) and vegetation establishment (30 percent) were the two most common uses during the initiative, see Figure 2.



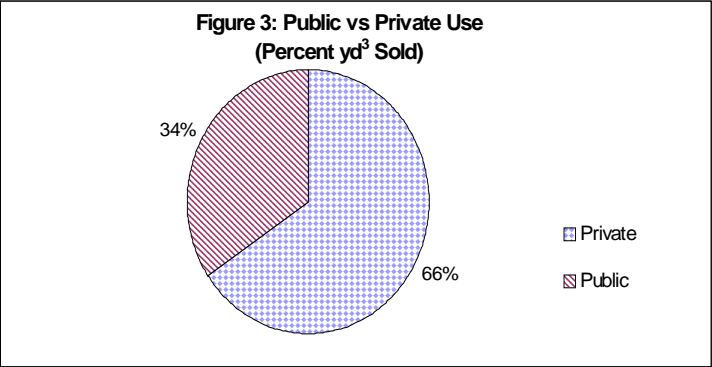
The rebate program was successful in exposing more than 90 of Iowa’s leading companies, organizations and communities to the many benefits of compost use.

Sustainability

Providing a rebate on compost likely increased short-term sales in all markets and methods of using compost. As part of the rebate program, the Department of Natural Resources took many steps to encourage long-term change in compost purchase and use behaviors. The main steps undertaken to develop ongoing, positive behaviors related to the purchase and use of compost included personal thank yous, online profiles and a follow up survey.

Thank You

Each user of rebate compost was sent a personal thank you note shortly after the compost purchase. The personal note thanked them for their compost purchase and commended the organization for doing their part to protect Iowa’s environment and support Iowa’s organics recycling industry. The note closed with an offer of additional technical assistance to encourage repeat purchases of compost.



Online Profiles

The Department of Natural Resources is developing rebate project profiles as resources for potential compost users and the producers of compost. These one page, full color publications outline the uses of compost under the rebate program from across the state as well as first-hand accounts of the results. The profiles will also include photographs of the projects, when available, and contact information. These informative and attractive profiles will be available on our website at <http://www.iowadnr.com/waste/recycling/index.html> and at the composting facilities listed on the back of this summary report.



Compost use for turf maintenance -
Centennial Park, Waukee, IA

Follow Up Survey

The DNR provided a one-page survey to the compost end users to better gauge the usefulness of the rebate program and the future direction of education and awareness efforts. The surveys were sent out to the addresses given by the composting facilities and contractors selling the compost from around the state. Approximately 64 surveys were mailed in June and July 2004 and 19 completed surveys were returned for a response rate of 30 percent. From the surveys received, respondents indicated a high satisfaction rate for the compost use (100 percent) and satisfaction with the quality of the compost (100 percent). Respondents were asked to rank their most important considerations for using compost on a scale of 1 to 9 with 1 being most important. Compost quality was most important (1.94), followed by nutrient value (2.17), low price (2.77) and customer service (3.38). Forty-two percent of respondents said they would purchase compost again. Those not intending to buy more compost, cited “no need”(47 percent) and “too expensive” (16 percent) as their reasons.

We can also conclude from survey data that more educational and instructional workshops or resources would be of value to the respondents. There was some respondent confusion about ranking the most valued resources, making scientific analysis difficult; however, compost use training, compost use specifications and guidance and/or direction on projects were the most often requested resources. We conclude from this survey that our objective was met at least to the extent that the compost purchasers were satisfied with their purchases and did indeed plan to use compost again in the future. Through online profiles and follow up surveys, we believe we have a good start at growing the thriving compost end use market in Iowa.